



**Contact:** Todd Lindgren  
VP, Communications  
(213) 977-8628  
[tlindgren@filmla.com](mailto:tlindgren@filmla.com)

Philip Sokoloski  
Manager, Communications  
(213) 977-8630  
[psokoloski@filmla.com](mailto:psokoloski@filmla.com)

## **Few Bright Spots Seen in Local On-Location Film Production**

*Impact of Economy and Labor Issues Seen in Quarterly Data*

**LOS ANGELES – July 22, 2009** – FilmL.A. – the nonprofit organization that coordinates permits for filmed entertainment shot on-location in the City of Los Angeles, unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County and other local jurisdictions – today announced that on-location filming across all filming categories declined 24.5 percent in the first half of 2009 compared to the same six-month period in 2008. The nonprofit recorded 19,015 permitted production days (PPD)\* in January through June 2009 compared to 25,196 PPD tallied in the same period during 2008.\*\*

On-location Feature film production posted the largest year-to-date decline of any category, down 52.5 percent compared to 2008 (2,314 vs. 4,868 PPD). The category has posted four straight quarters of double-digit losses and has seen annual declines in ten of the last 12 years, as feature productions have left Los Angeles for other incentive-rich jurisdictions. Significant gains must be posted in the next six months for the category to finish the year in positive territory.

Permitted production days for Commercials are down 31.1 percent (2,459 vs. 3,570 PPD) year-to-date. The Commercials category -- which has experienced year-over-year annual losses in 2006, 2007 and 2008 -- has also posted four

straight quarters of double-digit losses. The data do not seem to signify any notable improvement in the health of the advertising sector.

Television has fared better as a category, declining only 4.2 percent (8,277 vs. 8,636 PPD) year-to-date compared to 2008. The WGA labor action introduced roller-coaster-like production swings in 2008 that led to illusory 49.0 percent year-over-year gains for TV in the first quarter of 2009 and 30.7 percent losses in the second.

Year-to-date figures for the major television subcategories reveal a mixed picture. TV Dramas are up 9.5 percent year-to-date (2,777 vs. 2,537 PPD). TV Sitcoms are down 37.5 percent year-to-date (409 vs. 654 PPD). TV Reality dropped 12.0 percent year-to-date (2,863 vs. 3,255 PPD), after a significant second quarter drop of 33.2 percent. TV Pilots are up 10.8 percent year-to-date (563 to 508 PPD), buoyed by first quarter gains.

“Our recent television production figures have been all over the map due to last year’s work stoppage,” said FilmL.A. President Paul Audley. “But, we are deeply concerned about our long-term loss of commercial and feature film production. The advertising sector has been hard hit by the economy, and feature films are consistently shot in incentive-generous locales outside California.”

#### **About FilmL.A.**

Founded in 1995, FilmL.A. is a private, nonprofit organization that coordinates and processes permits for on-location motion picture, television and commercial production under contract to an ever-increasing roster of public-sector clients in the Los Angeles region. Our organization works to strike a balance between the needs and interests of the entertainment industry and the neighborhoods affected by on-location production. Ongoing community relations is a key component of the service FilmL.A. provides. In today's highly competitive, global entertainment production market, FilmL.A.'s services help the Los Angeles region retain its status as the entertainment production capital of the world.

\* On-location production figures are based on days of permitted production within the jurisdictions served by FilmL.A. One permitted production day (PPD) is defined as a single crew's permission to film a single project, at a single defined location, during any given 24-hour period. This data does not include production that occurs on certified sound stages or on-location in jurisdictions not served by FilmL.A.. Overall figures include production of feature films, television programs, commercials, documentaries, industrial videos, infomercials, music videos, still photography, student films and miscellaneous production.

\*\* FilmL.A.'s state-of-the-art Online Permit System (OPS) more precisely tracks film production than was previously possible with lesser technology. Specifically, OPS better distinguishes between permitted locations used for filming and locations where no filming occurred. We have revised data from prior periods in 2008 and 2009 to take advantage of this capability and make accurate year-to-year comparisons possible.



## On-Location Production Report

Updated: 7.22.09

### Recent Permitted Production Days (PPD) by Type\*

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL (YTD)
<b>Features</b>					▼ 52.5%
- 2008**	2,386	2,482	1,183	1,045	4,868
- 2009	921	1,383			2,314
- Year/Year Diff.	-61.4%	-43.9%			
<b>Television</b>					▼ 4.2%
- 2008**	2,871	5,765	5,638	4,826	8,636
- 2009	4,279	3,998			8,277
- Year/Year Diff.	49.0%	-30.7%			
<b>Commercials</b>					▼ 31.1%
- 2008**	1,989	1,581	1,103	1,343	3,570
- 2009	1,266	1,193			2,459
- Year/Year Diff.	-36.3%	-24.5%			
<b>Others</b>					▼ 26.6%
- 2008**	3,968	4,154	3,376	3,407	8,122
- 2009	2,942	3,023			5,965
- Year/Year Diff.	-25.9%	-27.2%			
<b>TOTAL (All Categories)</b>					▼ 24.5%
- 2008**	11,214	13,982	11,300	10,621	25,196
- 2009	9,408	9,607			19,015
- Year/Year Diff.	-16.1%	-31.3%			

### Recent PPD for Top Television Subcategories

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL (YTD)
<b>TV Drama</b>					▲ 9.5%
- 2008**	593	1,944	2,292	1,907	2,537
- 2009	1,556	1,221			2,777
- Year/Year Diff.	162.4%	-37.2%			
<b>TV Sitcom</b>					▼ 37.5%
- 2008**	207	447	470	233	654
- 2009	216	193			409
- Year/Year Diff.	4.3%	-56.8%			
<b>TV Reality</b>					▼ 12.0%
- 2008**	1,211	2,044	1,535	1,802	3,255
- 2009	1,497	1,366			2,863
- Year/Year Diff.	23.6%	-33.2%			
<b>TV Pilot</b>					▲ 10.8%
- 2008**	180	328	151	216	508
- 2009	254	309			563
- Year/Year Diff.	41.1%	-5.8%			

### About this Report

This report is the product of independent research conducted by FilmL.A., a private, nonprofit organization that coordinates and processes permits for on-location motion picture, television and commercial production under contract to an ever-increasing roster of public-sector clients in the Los Angeles region.

Although film production activity can be measured in a variety of ways, our preferred unit of measure is the permitted production day (PPD). One PPD is defined as a single crew's permission to film a single project, at a single defined location, during any given 24-hour period.

In addition to researching matters of interest to entertainment industry leaders and local government representatives, FilmL.A. offers counsel to local governments on how to enhance the environment for filming in the greater Los Angeles region.

Ongoing community relations is a key component of the service FilmL.A. provides. The organization works to strike a balance between the needs and interests of the entertainment industry and the neighborhoods affected by on-location production.

In today's highly competitive, global entertainment production market, our services help the Los Angeles region retain its status as the entertainment production capital of the world.

\* FilmL.A.'s state-of-the-art Online Permit System (OPS) more precisely tracks film production than was previously possible with lesser technology. Specifically, OPS better distinguishes between permitted locations used for filming and locations where no filming occurred.

\*\* FilmL.A. has revised its production data from prior periods to take advantage of OPS' new capabilities and make accurate year-to-year comparisons possible. Direct comparison between this data and that collected and reported in prior years (1993-2007) is not advised.

FilmL.A.  
1201 W. 5th Street  
Suite T-800  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

213.977.8600 t.  
213.977.8610 f.  
www.filmla.com